

## **Loss hurts Pirates in more ways than one**

Lee Stubbs  
Editor

After its stunning 27-14 Homecoming loss to Maryville last Friday, Platte County coach Chip Sherman told his players the season was not over.

“If we make our corrections and stay focused, we can still get where we want to go,” he told his team in its post-game huddle.

Technically, that’s true. The loss means only that the Pirates, who entered the contest undefeated and ranked second in Class 3, will likely not win a seventh Midland Empire Conference title in 10 years. A district championship and playoff run are still possible. But, that scenario does not seem as probable as it did before Maryville, which moved to 6-0 with the win, had its way with the Pirates in front of a capacity crowd at Pirates Stadium.

Further complicating matters is an injury to senior quarterback and team leader Jake Crawford, who went down with a pulled hamstring in the second quarter. Sherman said Crawford, who has thrown for 889 yards and 15 touchdowns this season, is likely to be sidelined for a couple of weeks.

So, Platte County, 5-1, will turn to junior signal-caller Jeff Cline when it travels to St. Joseph Lafayette, 2-3, Friday night. Cline, 6-1, 175, got his first repetitions with the first-string offense when he took the field after Crawford’s injury. He got some more practice time with the starting backs and receivers during a special throwing session Sunday afternoon.

“Jeff is fine — he just needs some reps,” Sherman said. “I expect him to do well.”

Platte County will likely lean on its running game a little more during Crawford’s absence, but Sherman said the playbook will still be open.

“We’re going to balance our attack and throw the football like we always have,” he said.

The Pirates will face a much different Lafayette team than the one it outscored 91-9 in victories the past two seasons. Irish quarterback Jake Davis operates a shotgun spread offense, which at times has produced big plays. Davis’ main target is speedy wide receiver Bryston Williams. Williams scored both touchdowns in Lafayette’s 27-14 loss last week at Cameron — on a 75-yard pass and on a 90-yard kickoff return.

“It’s a strange feeling coming off a loss because we haven’t had too many here at Platte County,” Sherman said. “But the big question is where do we go from here? If we line up and play Friday and learn from our mistakes, we’ll be fine.”

### **Hounds crash Pirates’ Homecoming party**

Last Friday’s game got off to a pleasant enough start for Platte County. The Pirates opened the scoring with three minutes to play in the opening quarter when Crawford hit Eric Barmann for a 74-yard touchdown pass.

From that point on, however, Maryville took control.

The momentum shifted the Spoofhounds’ way when Crawford, trying to avoid a sack, pulled his left hamstring muscle with six minutes to play in the second quarter. He spent the rest of the contest on the bench with an icepack wrapped around his leg.

Then the Hounds, behind running back Adam Mattson, ripped off 21 unanswered points, culminating in a 44-yard touchdown pass from Andy Walter to Cory Cronk early in the third quarter.

Platte County responded with a 16-play drive that ended when Cline snuck into the end zone from the one. After the two teams traded punts, Maryville iced the game with a drive featuring two key plays from Mattson. The first came on a fake punt, when Mattson rumbled 17 yards for a first down. The second came on a fake field goal attempt, when Walter, the holder, grabbed an errant snap, then floated a pass to Mattson, the kicker, in the flat. Mattson eluded Pirates tacklers and took the ball 14 yards to the PC seven.

Walter eventually snuck in for the score with three minutes left.

For the game, Mattson rushed for 131 yards and Walter passed for 184, helping Maryville post a 388-249 advantage in total yardage. Barmann had 51 yards rushing, Tucker Smith had 34 and Crawford had 109 passing and 32 rushing yards before his injury.

Defensively, Platte County was paced by five total tackles each from Nick Maxwell and Barmann, while Travis Cash added a sack.

#### **MARYVILLE 27, PIRATES 14**

M	7	7	7	6	-	27
PC	7	0	7	0	-	14

First quarter

PC: Eric Barmann 74 pass from Jake Crawford, Erik Odegard kick, 2:56

M: Adam Mattson 14 run, Mattson kick, :51

Second quarter

M: Mattson 24 run, Mattson kick, 2:20

Third quarter

M: Cory Cronk 44 pass from Andy Walter, Mattson kick, 10:14

PC: Jeff Cline 1 run, Odegard kick, 3:40

Fourth quarter

M: Walter 1 run, kick failed, 3:01

## **No. 1 Lawson is North Platte's reward**

Jerry Keuhn

Reporter

Fresh off a Homecoming victory and its first win after four consecutive losses, the North Platte football team does not catch a scheduling break this week as the Panthers will travel to Lawson this Friday night.

The 6-0 Cardinals — who are the No. 1-ranked team in Class 2 — have racked up some impressive numbers so far this season: in its six wins, Lawson outscored its opponents 191-30 and did not allow a team to score more than one touchdown in a game. The Cardinals administered a 35-0 beating to East Buchanan at Gower last week for Lawson's fourth KCI Conference victory of the season, and are in good position for a postseason run if they can escape a district that also includes St. Joseph LeBlond, Maryville and Plattsburg. Last year, the Cardinals finished at 9-3 overall with a quarterfinal loss to Hogan Prep and were the KCI Conference champions with a perfect 6-0 record.

"We showed some improvement this week, but Lawson is the No. 1 team in the state and they will be a great challenge for us," said North Platte coach Jim Brockhoff. "We'll just line up against them Friday night and see how much better we got."

The Panthers will need to find a way to slow down Lawson's Wing T offense, led by senior all-conference and all-district quarterback Joe Kassaravoid, who is headed to Kansas State next year and was also an all-

state safety on defense last year. The Cardinals also have four running backs they use regularly, including senior David Noblet, juniors Ethan Deardeuff and Ian Swarts, and sophomore Zac Mathews.

### **Panthers hold off Blue Jays**

After almost half a game in which neither team was able to get much going offensively, North Platte put together a long drive and gave itself a halftime lead with a John Foster 1-yard run with a little over two minutes left before intermission.

Then in the third quarter, Foster rumbled for 46 yards on North Platte's first possession, then Wes Johnson hit Luke Boydston for a 15-yard touchdown pass. The North Platte defense took over then, stopping the Blue Jays on a goal line stand on Rock Port's next drive. After trading turnovers, including an interception by Boydston and a North Platte fumble on the next play, Rock Port was able to take advantage of a short field and score on a short touchdown run. The Panthers did not let that discourage them, however, and held the Blue Jays scoreless the rest of the way for its second win of the season and its first win after four losses.

"Rock Port has been in the playoffs more than a few times in the past and they didn't die easily, but we were able to finish them off," Brockhoff said. "With Foster healthy, we knew we could run the ball better and (wide receiver) Cory Hale made some nice plays and gave us a threat outside."

Foster led North Platte with 120 yards on 23 carries, and the Panthers finished with 188 yards, with Sam Trave adding 44 yards on eight rushes. But just as important to the Panthers' win was their passing game, which kept some drives alive on the 7-of-11 effort of Wes Johnson, who threw for 105 yards. Hale caught three passes for 54 yards, Boydston two passes for 31 yards and a touchdown, and Trave had two catches for 20 yards.

Johnson also led the team defensively with seven tackles, while Nick Domingo also had a good game with six tackles and two quarterback sacks. Shawn Rogers also had a sack, and Trave, Boydston and Del Jones had four tackles apiece as North Platte held Rock Port to just 43 rushing yards on 25 carries, including no rushing yardage in the second quarter. Rock Port had a little more success through the air, with 151 yards on 11-of-24 passing, but it was not enough to stop the Panthers.

### **PANTHERS 14, ROCK PORT 7**

RP 0 0 0 7 - 7

NP 0 7 7 0 - 14

Second quarter

NP: John Foster 1 run, Adam Shore kick, 2:32

Third quarter

NP: Luke Boydston 15 pass from Wes Johnson, Shore kick, 8:05

Fourth quarter

RP: Jay Stanton 1 run, run failed, 6:58

### **Lady Pirates prevail in district title game marathon**

Lee Stubbs  
Editor

The way Saturday's Class 3 District 15 softball championship game began, no one could have predicted it would take 12 grind-it-out innings to determine a winner.

Third-seeded Smithville stunned the Pirates Field crowd with two first-inning runs. Not to be outdone, top-seeded Platte County responded with three runs in the bottom of the frame. A wild shootout seemed likely.

Not.

Only two more runs were scored in the next 11 innings. Smithville tied the contest with a solo run in the third inning and Platte County won 4-3 when Brianna Corwin slid headfirst across the plate with the game winner in the bottom of the 12th.

“I am really happy with the way the kids battled,” Platte County coach Rob Davenport said. “They showed a lot of character.”

With the dramatic victory, Platte County posted its first district title since 1999. The Lady Pirates, 24-4, were scheduled to play host to Chillicothe, 17-7, in a sectional game today (Oct. 10) at Pirates Field. Platte County won at Chillicothe 3-0 Aug. 30. The sectional winner moves on to a quarterfinal contest Saturday at Adair Park in Independence versus either KC O’Hara or Odessa. The state semifinals and final are set for Oct. 19-20 in Columbia.

Platte County’s rally Saturday began when Corwin walked leading off the 12th inning. Kelsey Weedon moved her over with her second sacrifice bunt of the game. Haley Pypes walked and Cacy Williams was hit by a pitch, loading the bases for junior Hilary Brought. Brought squared to bunt and fouled off the first pitch. She got the second one down and Corwin beat Smithville pitcher Amanda Balor’s throw to home. Pypes pitched all 12 innings and picked up her 19th win of the season. She struck out 11 and walked three.

Offensively, Platte County had 10 hits, including three singles and an RBI from Williams. Pypes and Molley Cantu each had two hits. Corwin and Cantu each had two stolen bases.

Platte County reached the title game with a come-from-behind 3-2 win over Richmond in a Friday night semifinal. Trailing 2-1, Platte County scored once in the fifth to tie the game, then plated the go-ahead run in the sixth. Sydney Reynolds had two hits and scored two runs. Brought and Sam Elliott each drove in one run.

Pypes got the win and struck out 12.